

Salt-spray Tolerant Groundcovers, Shrubs, and Trees for Eastern Long Island

Aerial salts carried by on-shore breezes, fog, and wind can injure plants sensitive to salt deposition. The plants listed below have displayed either high or moderate tolerance to salt spray. Most species listed have displayed high tolerance (little to no damage). Those species noted as having moderate tolerance may show signs of salt injury (tip dieback, foliar damage, reduced growth). Moderately-tolerant species should be planted in areas away from direct salt-spray exposure. Salt-spray tolerance applies to aerial deicing salts as well. The plants listed were chosen because they are relatively disease and pest resistance (unless noted), and well-suited for eastern Long Island.

Perennial Groundcovers

Foliage	Common Name	Scientific Name	Habit & Comments*
Deciduous	Beach Pea	<i>Lathyrus maritimus</i>	native, flowering, silver-green foliage
Evergreen	Bearberry	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	native, low-growing, soft stems
Evergreen	Shore Juniper	<i>Juniperus conferta</i>	spreading, dense
Semi-evergreen	Willowleaf Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster salicifolius</i>	weeping, cascading
Semi-evergreen	Lily Turf	<i>Liriope muscari</i>	grass-like appearance

Woody Shrubs (fifteen feet or less in height)

Deciduous	False Indigo-bush	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	flowering shrub, prefers wet sites
Deciduous	Red Chokeberry	<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	moderate salt tolerance, native, early flowering
Deciduous	Black Chokecherry	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	moderate salt tolerance, native, early flowering
Deciduous	Eastern Baccharis	<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	native, tolerates wet sites
Deciduous	Sweet Pepperbush	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	native, flowers late
Deciduous	Sweetfern	<i>Comptonia peregrina</i>	native, prefers dry sites
Deciduous	Creeping Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster adpressus</i>	mounded, spreading
Deciduous	Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster divaricatus</i>	upright, arching habit
Deciduous	Forsythia	<i>Forsythia x intermedia</i>	early spring flowering
Deciduous	Common Witchhazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	native, very early flowering
Deciduous	Rose of Sharon	<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>	moderately salt tolerant, flowering, mod. invasive habit
Deciduous	Smooth Hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	native, flowering
Deciduous	Bigleaf Hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>	flowering
Deciduous	St. John's Wort/Hypericum	<i>Hypericum calycinum</i>	striking yellow flowers
Deciduous	Bayberry	<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>	native, can form beautiful mounded stands
Deciduous	Bush Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	native, low-growing, not well-suited for hot, dry sites
Deciduous	Beach Plum	<i>Prunus maritima</i>	native, black rot susceptible
Deciduous	Fragrant Sumac	<i>Rhus aromatica 'Gro-Low'</i>	native, low spreading mounds, striking fall foliage
Deciduous	Shining Sumac	<i>Rhus copallina</i>	native, upright habit, lustrous foliage, fiery in fall
Deciduous	Smooth Sumac	<i>Rhus glabra</i>	moderate salt tolerance, upright, good for naturalizing
Deciduous	Staghorn Sumac	<i>Rhus typhina</i>	showy fruit, fiery fall foliage
Deciduous	Alpine Currant	<i>Ribes alpinum</i>	moderately salt tolerant
Deciduous	Rugosa rose	<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	perfumed flowers with showy red fruit (hips)
Deciduous	Anthony Waterer Spiraea	<i>Spiraea x bumalda 'Anthony Waterer'</i>	flowering, mounding habit
Deciduous	Bridalwreath Spiraea	<i>Spiraea x vanhouttei</i>	flowering, arching stems
Deciduous	Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	native, good for naturalizing, white berries

Woody Shrubs continued

Foliage	Common Name	Scientific Name	Habit & Comments*
Deciduous	Common Lilac	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	moderately salt tolerant, prone to mildew
Deciduous	Highbush Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	native, rounded habit, delicious fruit, red fall foliage
Deciduous	Arrowwood Viburnum	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	native, mod. salt tolerant, viburnum leaf beetle
Deciduous	European Larix	<i>Larix decidua</i>	deciduous evergreen
Evergreen	Spotted Laurel	<i>Aucuba japonica</i>	prone to root rot
Evergreen	Japanese Plum Yew	<i>Cephalotaxus harringtonia</i>	upright habit
Evergreen	Inkberry Holly	<i>Ilex glabra</i>	native, black root rot susceptible
Evergreen	Dwarf English Yew	<i>Taxus baccata 'Repandens'</i>	lovely, mounding arching habit
Evergreen	Yew	<i>Taxus x media cultivars</i>	fun with shapes!

Trees (Greater than fifteen feet in height)

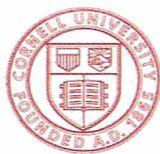
Deciduous	European Horsechestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	striking spring flowers
Deciduous	Downy Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier arborer</i>	native, early showy white flowers
Deciduous	Shadblow Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	native, early to flower, white blossoms
Deciduous	Allegheny Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	native, early white blossoms with red spring foliage
Deciduous	Shagbark Hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>	native, large taproot so difficult to transplant
Deciduous	Katsuratree	<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>	moderately salt tolerant, intolerant of dry sites
Deciduous	American Smoketree	<i>Cotinus obovatus</i>	native, striking fall foliage
Deciduous	Carolina Silverbell	<i>Halesia carolina</i>	native, spring flowering
Deciduous	Black Walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	native, difficult to transplant
Deciduous	American Sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	native, nice fall foliage
Deciduous	Black Gum, Tupelo	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	native, moderately salt tolerant, striking fall foliage
Deciduous	White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	native, prefers alkaline soil
Deciduous	Japanese Tree Lilac	<i>Syringa reticulata</i>	late spring/early summer flowering
Evergreen	Japanese Falsecypress	<i>Chamaecyparis pisifera</i>	dwarf cultivars available, tree form is lovely
Evergreen	Eastern Redcedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	native, moderately salt tolerant, bagworm & leafminer
Evergreen	Swiss Stone Pine	<i>Pinus cembra</i>	pyramidal shape, five needles per bundle
Evergreen	Japanese White Pine	<i>Pinus parviflora</i>	mod. salt tolerant, similar in habit to native white pine
Evergreen	Pitch Pine	<i>Pinus rigida</i>	native, three needles per bundle, open growth habit
Evergreen	Eastern Arborvitae	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	native, moderately tolerant, conical habit, scale-leaved

*native refers to species native to the eastern United States

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